

## **PURPOSE**

To prepare pharmacist clinicians with proficiencies in the planning, implementation and assessment of safe medication use practices within an integrated healthcare delivery system, managed care setting and/or drug safety oversight group. Residents graduating from this program will be qualified for any of the following positions:

- Pharmacy medication safety officer within a hospital or managed care organization;
- Pharmacy leader responsible for monitoring and resolving ADEs, as well as providing targeted education, in a health system, managed care area or drug safety oversight agency (e.g., ISMP, FDA, CDC, etc.);
- Drug use management pharmacist;
- Study researcher in an industry setting,
- Medication-use safety or research faculty in academia, and
- PGY-2 training in specialties associated with managed care environments.

## **OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of the program, the resident will:

- Function as an effective leader for medication-use safety;
- Serve as an authoritative resource on medication-use safety for the organization;
- Develop a vision of an ideal safe medication-use system for the organization;
- Represent the medication-use safety perspective to the organization's design of its technology and automation systems;
- Conduct planning for pursuit of the organization's vision of a safe medication-use system;
- Collect medication-use data and use appropriate data analysis techniques to identify needed improvements in the medication-use system;
- Manage changes in the medication-use system, and
- Conduct medication-use safety research.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**Residency Type:** 2<sup>nd</sup> year; Medication Use Safety  
**Duration of Program:** 12 Months  
**Number of Positions:** 1  
**ASHP Accreditation:** Yes  
**Application Deadline:** January 22, 2016  
**Interview:** Required; Onsite  
**Match Code:** 634077  
**Starting Date:** July 1st

## **EDUCATIONAL/SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) Degree
- Completion of first year residency or equivalent experience
- U.S. Citizenship
- Pharmacy Licensure in one of the States or territories of the United States or the District of Columbia
- Letter of Intent/Personal Statement
- Three (3) Letters of Reference
- Curriculum Vitae
- Pharmacy School Transcripts
- Formal Presentation (20 minutes) at onsite interview

## **SALARY & BENEFITS**

- Estimated Stipend: \$48,789
- 13 Vacation Days
- 13 Sick Days
- ~10 Paid Federal Holidays
- Healthcare Benefits
- Free Parking

## **LOCATION**

The Pharmacy Benefits Management Services (PBM) and Center for Medication Safety (VA MedSAFE) offices are located at the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in Hines, Illinois. This VA medical center is situated just outside of the western city limits of Chicago and is less than a half-hour drive from Downtown Chicago using the Eisenhower Expressway. The campus is also accessible by public transportation.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENCY COMPLETION**

- Attain the *core* goals (11) and associated objectives for the PGY2 Residency in Medication Use Safety at the VA Center for Medication Safety, and attain at least 10 of the remaining 13 goals and associated objectives.
- Complete the requirements of the individual experience plans.
- Complete a research project.
- Present the research project, or another medication use safety project, at a regional or national professional meeting.
- Present a formal seminar of interview quality.
- Complete a professional portfolio.

## **REQUIRED AND ELECTIVE EXPERIENCES**

### **Required:**

- Pharmacovigilance
- Medication-use safety research project
- National medication use evaluations
- Medication use evaluation trackers
- VA adverse drug event reporting system
- National drug safety communications
- VISN and medical center level medication use safety initiatives

### **Elective:**

- Medication use safety informatics
- Medication use safety administration
- Pharmacoepidemiology research in medication use safety
- Center for Drug Evaluation and Research /Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at FDA,
- Antimicrobial stewardship, and
- Others

## RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**Sherrie L. Aspinall, PharmD, MSc, BCPS** is a clinical pharmacy specialist with the VA Center for Medication Safety (VA MedSAFE) and a core faculty member of the VA Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. She is also an Associate Professor in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Aspinall has successfully mentored numerous pharmacy residents throughout her career with the VA as both a residency program director and preceptor. As a well-trained researcher in the areas of pharmacoeconomics, health services, and outcomes research, her work with VA MedSAFE focuses on the safe, appropriate, and cost-effective use of medications. Dr. Aspinall has conducted multicenter studies to examine these issues in medications with safety concerns, such as warfarin, erythropoiesis-stimulating agents and chemotherapy. In addition, she has utilized large databases to assess the impact of policy changes on medication prescribing throughout the VA.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Sherrie Aspinall, Pharm.D., MSc, BCPS**  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Pharmacy Benefits Management Services (10P4P)  
1<sup>st</sup> Avenue-1 Block North of Cermak Road  
Building 37; Room 139  
Hines, Illinois 60141  
Phone: 708-786-7882 | Fax: 708-786-7891  
E-mail : [Sherrie.Aspinall@va.gov](mailto:Sherrie.Aspinall@va.gov)

## HOW TO APPLY

This program participates in PHORCAS:  
<https://portal.phorcas.org/applicants15/index.cgi?rm=home>.

## **VHA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services**

The Department of Veterans Affairs Pharmacy Benefits Management Services (VA PBM) oversees the formulary for the entire VA system, which serves more than 8.34 million Veterans enrolled in VA Healthcare System and provides more than 139 million prescriptions per year.

Since its establishment in 1995, the VA PBM has managed pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical-related policies, including drug safety and efficacy evaluations, pharmacologic management algorithms, and criteria for drug use.

These evidence-based practices promote, optimize, and assist VA providers with the safe and appropriate use of pharmaceuticals while allowing for formulary decisions that can result in substantial cost savings.

The VA PBM has utilized various contracting techniques to standardize generic agents as well as specific drugs and drug classes. These methods have enabled the VA to save approximately \$1.5 billion dollars since 1996 even as drug expenditures continued to rise.

VA PBM collaborates with the VA Center for Medication Safety (VA MedSAFE), a comprehensive pharmacovigilance center, to undertake quality-improvement and safety initiatives that ultimately monitor and determine the clinical impact of formulary decisions on the VA system nationwide.

More information on the VA PBM is available at: <http://www.pbm.va.gov>.

## **VA Center for Medication Safety**

The Center for Medication Safety (VA MedSAFE) is a comprehensive pharmacovigilance program that has developed and implemented numerous national programs to monitor the safe and effective use of medications in VA.

VA MedSAFE has received national recognition for its efforts in drug safety and, as a result, collaborates closely with the FDA to evaluate the significance of known adverse drug reactions, in addition to identifying and tracking new and emerging drug safety issues. As such, VA MedSAFE conducts drug safety and monitoring efforts with the rigor of a regulatory body while maintaining the access and utilization required for a health care system.

VA MedSAFE optimizes drug therapy and patient outcomes by:

- Evaluating preventable adverse drug events (ADEs) through the use of passive surveillance via the VA Adverse Drug Event Reporting System (VA ADERS), as well as active surveillance, using integrated databases to assess the rate and risk of ADEs associated with specific medications;
- Providing interventions to decrease preventable ADEs through the Risk Reduction program, which includes National Medication Use Evaluations (MUEs);
- Educating the field on medication safety and best practices to further decrease ADEs by issuing Drug Safety Alerts, a monthly medication safety newsletter, safety information related to Risk Reduction efforts, and various Continuing Education programs; and
- Conducting and promoting medication safety research.

More information on VA MedSAFE is available at:  
<http://www.pbm.va.gov/PBM/VACenterForMedicationSafetyIndex.asp>.



# **PGY2 RESIDENCY**

# **Pharmacovigilance.**

# **Outcomes.**

# **Medication Safety.**



**VA Center for Medication Safety**

VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services [PBM]  
& Center for Medication Safety [VA MedSAFE]

**[www.pbm.va.gov](http://www.pbm.va.gov)**